

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6735

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USEMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BEGINS DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL  
REFORM

REF: MADRID 6047

1. TODAY'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HAS REPORTEDLY BEGUN  
THE FORMAL DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, REALLY-  
IN OUR UNDERSTANDING- THE OPTIONS IN TERMS OF THE REFERENDUM  
AND THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PARLIAMENT. THE PRESS  
REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAS PRESENTED A  
DOCUMENT TO BE STUDIED BY THE MINISTERS AND LATER DISCUSSED WITH  
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"QUALIFIED" REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPOSITION WITH A VIEW

TOWARD A CABINET DECISION ON THE 26TH OF AUGUST. THE REPORT GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROPOSAL WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AND THE CORTES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING FUNDAMENTAL LAWS, AND THEN ON TO REFERENDUM IN OCTOBER.

2. THE PLATA-JUNTA, FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE "ARAVACA DINNER" HOSTED BY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER GARRIGUES WALKER, MET AND PRODUCED A MUCH MORE CONCILIATORY DOCUMENT THAN IT HAD PUBLISHED SOME DAYS EARLIER. THE PLATA-JUNTA PROPOSED A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY AN ORGANISM THAT "REPRESENTS THE GAMUT OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION." THE DOCUMENT ALSO GOES ON TO PRAISE THE AMNESTY "IN SPITE OF ITS GRAVE LIMITATIONS" AS AN IMPORTANT FACT TENDING TOWARD INTERNAL DETENTE. THE PLATA-JUNTA DOCUMENT ALSO LISTED A FEW DEMANDS, BUT IN GENERAL THE TONE WAS QUITE CONCILIATORY.

3. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH SUAREZ (REF), SUAREZ MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING CERTAIN OPTIONS AND WOULD NOT DECLARE HIS HAND UNTIL AFTER THESE HAD BEEN STUDIED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND EXPLORED WITH THE OPPOSITION AND OTHER POLITICAL SECTORS. NONETHELESS, WE DO HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOS INCLINES TOWARD PRESERVING THE FABRIC OF LEGALITY SO LONG AS CORTES APPROVAL CAN BE OBTAINED, AND THEREFORE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN THAT APPROVAL PRIOR TO PUTTING A REFERENDUM TO THE PEOPLE. IF SOUNDINGS WITH THE CORTES PROVE UNFAVORABLE, THEN OF COURSE THE OPTION OF A PROSPECTIVE REFERENDUM WOULD LIKELY APPEAR MORE ATTRACTIVE. OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, AND UNTIL THE NEXT CABINET MEETING ON THE 26TH, WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE A CONSIDERABLE SORTING OUT OF THE OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES ON HOW TO CONSTRUCT THE NEW SPANISH PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND PROCEED WITH THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL REFORM.

4. THE OPPOSITION IS BY NO MEANS UNITED AND GARRIGUES WALKER'S DINNER BY MOST ACCOUNTS, THOUGH IT PROBABLY CLARIFIED THE POSITIONS OF VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS IN EACH OTHER'S EYES, HAS PROVOKED MORE THAN A CONFIDENTIAL

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BIT OF HILARITY IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE. THOUGH THE PSOE AND LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIS (RUIZ GIMENEZ, ETAL) DID NOT ATTEND, ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE WAS THERE, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, WHO WILL APPARENTLY GO ANYWHERE THEY ARE INVITED. ONE OF THE GUESTS TOLD US THAT AT A CERTAIN POINT DURING THE CONVERSATION IGNACIO CAAMUNAS, A LEADER OF ANOTHER MINI-LIBERAL PARTY, SAID "ARE WE ALL CRAZY, TALKING ABOUT WRITING A NEW CONSTITUTION AND INSTALLING

A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHO AMONG US WILL REPLACE THE  
KING?" HE WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE THERE TO DETECT  
A CERTAIN AIR OF UNREALITY ABOUT THIS OPPOSITION GATHERING,  
BUT THE NEED TO FIND SOME WAY FOR THE OPPOSITION TO  
A WAY TO TALK AS A GROUP WITH THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRE-  
SUMABLY FOSTER FURTHER EFFORTS AT INTRA-OPPOSITION DIALOGUE  
EXTENDING BEYOND THE PLATAJUNTA. THE SUCCESS OF SUCH  
DIVERSE PERSONALITIES AND POLITICAL LEANINGS IN THESE  
EFFORTS IS ANOTHER MATTER.  
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